

Remarks

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action of April 29, 2004. Reexamination and reconsideration of **claims 1-17** is respectfully requested. The present amendment corrects a few antecedents and adds new claims 16 and 17. No new matter has been added.

Summary of The Office Action

Claims 1, 3-6, 8-11, and 13-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Spoffard (U.S. Patent Number 6,112,235) hereinafter referred to as Spoffard.

Claims 2, 7, and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Spoffard in view of Prithviraj et al. (U.S. Patent Number 5,987,513) hereinafter referred to as Prithviraj.

The Present Claims Patentably Distinguish Over the References of Record

Independent **claim 1** was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Spoffard (U.S. Patent Number 6,112,235). In the Office Action, it appears that the computer 12 described by Spoffard was used to teach both claimed elements of the office equipment and the computing system of claim 1. Since two separate elements are claimed in claim 1, two separate elements must be shown that anticipate the claimed elements. Therefore, the reasoning that supports the anticipation rejection fails to properly anticipate claim 1 and the rejection should be withdrawn.

In particular, components 12 and 32 from Spoffard were used to teach the claimed office equipment of claim 1. Component 12 is, of course, computer 12, and component 32 refers to a client. The client is a program on the computer 12 (column 2, lines 33-35). Additionally, Spoffard, column 2, lines 40-50, was cited to teach the claimed computing system of claim 1. However, this passage describes a home page that displays a graphical form of a hardware device, which occurs on the computer 12. Indeed, computer 12 is the only described component in Spoffard that has a display. Therefore, Spoffard fails to teach or suggest present claim 1 and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Spoffard does show two elements being the computer 12 and a hardware device 14 and the following explanation will relate to these elements.

Spoffard is directed to a method for remotely managing a network hardware from a computer 12 using an internetwork protocol (see abstract, col. 1, lines 50-60). The network hardware is device 14 in Figure 1. The computer 12 sends management requests, like a hardware status, to the hardware device 14 and, the computer 12 displays the hardware status on the computer's display (see column 3, lines 5-12 and lines 20-22). The management requests relate to the operation of the hardware device (column 3, lines 8-12).

The hardware device 14 is described as a repeater or a switch (col. 2, lines 22-26). As described in column 2, lines 19-21, "As an embedded device, device 14 generally contains no disk drive, no keyboard or other conventional input mechanism, and no display terminal."

Therefore, the managed network hardware 14 as described by Spoffard does not and can not display information. Thus, Spoffard is not concerned with causing the hardware 14 to display information. Furthermore, there is no suggestion in Spoffard that the invention has a purpose, intent, or even a reason to cause the network hardware 14 to display information since the hardware 14 has no display terminal. As such, Spoffard fails to teach or suggest a computing system for obtaining information unrelated to operation of office equipment, and for causing the office equipment to display the information in place of a status message as recited in independent claim 1.

Since claim 1 recites features not taught or suggested by the Spoffard, claim 1 patentably distinguishes over Spoffard. Accordingly, dependent claims 2-5 also patentably distinguish over the Spoffard and are in condition for allowance.

Independent claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Spoffard. As previously explained, Spoffard is directed to a method for remotely managing a network hardware device 14 like a repeater. Spoffard describes a client computer obtaining a hardware status from the repeater 14, where the repeater is referred to as a server (see column 3, lines 13-20). The hardware status is information that relates to the operation of the hardware device 14. There is no discussion of obtaining information that is unrelated to the operation of the hardware device. Present claim 6 recites obtaining information unrelated to operation of

office equipment. Thus, since a claimed element is not taught or suggested by Spoffard, claim 6 is not anticipated by Spoffard and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Furthermore, as explained previously, Spoffard is not concerned with, and does not teach or suggest, a computing device that causes the network hardware to display information. Indeed, the network hardware 14 has no display terminal. It then follows that Spoffard fails to teach or suggest any of the generating, sending, and displaying steps as recited in claim 6.

Since claim 6 recites features not taught or suggested by the Spoffard, claim 6 patentably distinguishes over Spoffard. Accordingly, dependent claims 7-10 also patentably distinguish over the Spoffard and are in condition for allowance.

Independent claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Spoffard. Based on the disclosure, Spoffard fails to teach or suggest the recited processing means of claim 11. Spoffard fails to teach or suggest any element for translating information into instructions to office equipment to display information on a display, where the instructions instruct the office equipment to display the information in place of a status message.

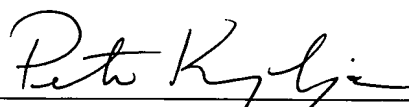
Therefore, independent claim 11 recites elements not taught or suggested by the Spoffard. Claim 11, thus, patentably distinguishes over Spoffard. Accordingly, dependent claims 12-15 also patentably distinguish over the Spoffard and are in condition for allowance.

With regard to combining the teachings of Prithviraj with Spoffard applied to claims 2, 7, and 12, applicant respectfully believes that their combined teachings still fail to teach or suggest any of the present claims. The Office Action states, at the top of page 5, that it would be obvious to combine these references to allow monitoring of a remote network and to facilitate easier problem resolution for network elements. However, one or more of the present claims relate to obtaining information unrelated to the operation of office equipment, which does not relate to monitoring or problem resolution. Therefore, the combined teachings provide no additional support for an obviousness rejection.

Conclusion

For the reasons set forth above, **claims 1-17** patentably and unobviously distinguish over the references of record and are now in condition for allowance. An early allowance of all claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Peter Kraguljac", written over a horizontal line.

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